schemes formulated for dairy development are commendable. (*Interruptions*)

The Government may have a lot of statistics. I have nothing to do with these statistics.My suggestions about rural development should be taken into account to make the schemes meaningful and to develop agriculture.

15.35 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

(i) President Yasser Arafat

[*English*]

MR.CHAIRMAN: The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (SHRI Eduardo Faleiro) is to make an intervention.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much. In the morning, the House wanted me to keep the House informed about the mater concerning President Yasser Arafat. We are gratified and relieved to learn that President Yasser Arafat is safe and well after the forced landing of his plane in Libya. May, I through you, urge the House to join us in wishing President Yasser Arafat a long and happy life.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, it is indeed a matter of great pleasure for all of us to get this good news from the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs.

[*English*]

15.36 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS *(GENERAL)*, 1992-93 *CONTD*

Ministry of Rural Development;Ministry of Food;
Ministry of Agriculture;
Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution *CONTD.*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri K. Pradhani.

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demand for Grants for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Civil Supplies and Public Distribution.

Our country is an agricultural country where 70 per cent of the people of this country depend on agriculture, Fertiliser is one of the main in puts for agriculture, to raise more production in agriculture. In the year 1950-51, the intake of fertiliser was 69 lakh tonnes and in the year 1991-92, it went upto 135 lakh tonnes. It is hundred fold increases in the intake of fertiliser and the production has been increased proportionately.The next important item that is necessary for agriculture is irrigation. There are three types of irrigation-flow irrigation, lift irrigation and under-ground water irrigation, Regarding flow and lift irrigations, Government is constructing projects in large scale. There dug wells and tube wells are constructed by the individuals wherever it is practicable. Government of India has provision to provide free dug wells and mini-wells to the small and marginal farmers. But the middle-class farmers are the biggest sufferers in this country.

After the implementation of land reforms, there are no zamindars and big landlords. All have become small farmers. The small and marginal farmers enjoy the privilage of the Government of free grants for tube wells and dug wells and so on. But the middle-class farmers, who are helpless., do not get any assistance for irrigation. They have to pay heavy interest for whatever little help they get. Of course, the National Financial Development Corporation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is there. But it has got limited resources and it cannot provide finance to the extent required even to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes. In this regard I would like to draw the attention of the ministry of Agriculture and request them to examine this matter and see that more money is allotted to this Corporation so